



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
February 18, 2009

H.B. 1666

RELATING TO THE HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE

Chair Carroll and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 1666.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) supports the intent of H.B. 1666 but has concerns. The bill includes the following:

"[H]§1-13.5[H] Hawaiian language; spelling. [~~Macrons and glottal stops may be used in the spelling of words or terms in the Hawaiian language in~~] (a) Effective January 1, 2011, all documents and letterhead prepared by or for state or county agencies or officials[-] shall include the accurate, appropriate, and authentic Hawaiian names and language, including proper Hawaiian spelling and punctuation, including but not limited to macrons and glottal stops, printed above the English translation;

If this passage is interpreted to mean that all correspondence must include both English and a Hawaiian translation, DAGS recommends against this as impractical. However, if this bill applies to Hawaiian names and words, it would be more achievable.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

By
Paul Quintiliani, Director
Endowment/Commercial Assets Division
Kamehameha Schools

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009
9:05 a.m., Conference Room 329

TO: Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair
Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. Rida Cabanilla, Chair
Members of the Committee on Housing

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1612.

Kamehameha Schools respectfully supports this measure.

Kamehameha Schools broadly supports the increasing availability of affordable housing throughout Hawai'i. We believe that the housing crisis in Hawai'i is real and requires immediate action. We also believe it is critically important to implement policies that will result in the construction of new affordable units (or retention of existing supply) and not have the unintended and ironic consequence of inhibiting construction altogether.

Our overarching comment is that provisions in statute, rules and policies concerning affordable housing must be viewed collectively for their contribution to an overall effective policy that promotes actual development of affordable housing. To achieve this desired outcome, we believe that a range of tools and strategies are needed.

HB No. 1612 is positive legislation that permits the department of Hawaiian home lands to receive and subsequently assign, transfer, or exchange county affordable housing credits. Measures such as these help to increase the overall supply and development feasibility of affordable housing throughout the State.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this measure.

LATE TESTIMONY



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Legislative Testimony

HB 1666 -Relating to the Hawaiian language

House Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Rep. Mele Carroll, Chair

Rep. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Date: February 18, 2009

Time: 9:10am

Room: 329

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) supports the bill. The use of macrons and glottal stops are essential to both the preservation and promotion of the native Hawaiian culture, history, and language as provided for in the state's constitution. This is especially true nowadays with the demise of our kūpuna who are familiar with the spoken language.

Furthermore, OHA lauds the author's use of this language on page 2, line 3 and 4 of the bills stating, ..." proper Hawaiian macrons and glottal stops not only shows the deserved respect for the native language of these islands; but also fully comports with the intent and words of the state constitution." We fully concur.